PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

[0001] The present invention is related to ~~represents an improvement over~~ my US Patent No. 5,244,715 granted to me on September 14, 1993. Said patent is incorporated in its entirety herein by reference thereto.

[0004] Also for many years, advertising displays have been available with hanging pennants or banners strung together, usually by some sort of fiber or metal rope material. An example of this may be seen in a patent by R.J. Leander (US Pat. No. 2,688,303 - Patented Sep. 7, 1954). Another example of the use of a rope with hanging pennants for warning purposes is the water ski tow rope of B.G. Moreland (US Pat. No. 4,813,369 - Patented Mar. 21, 1989). Naval pennants are often strung together to communicate information. Other devices are available that display hanging pennants, but the connecting support structure is rigid. In any event, mechanisms of this type cannot be stored as compactly as flexible tape that is rolled. My flag strip invention allows for compact storage of rolls of tape that deploy into a series of hanging pennants that remain connected to each other by the flexible tape material. An advantage of using the flag strip is that a message can be printed or applied in contrasting colors on the material that connects the pennants to each other as well as on the pennants themselves. A great advantage of using the flag strip over the other conventional pennant banner hanging devices is its relatively low cost. However, flag strip is limited to long and narrow pennants that are different from conventional pennant displays having somewhat wider pennants.

[0006] There is a need for an inexpensive multi-banner device that can be stored compactly in rolls, and that permits a wider variety of banner shapes than does flag strip. Such a device should permit a portion of the rolled material to be deployed as desired, and the remaining material to be re-stored until needed.

[0007] The present invention is a flexible tape that deploys to present a series of ~~larger~~ pennants or banners, larger than the strips of US Patent No. 5,294,715, connected to each other by flexible connectors. The tape is cut in such a way as to define the pennants and connectors. When deployed, the pennants separate from the connectors to form hanging pennants, their appearance being similar to that of the conventional ~~non-tape~~ devices.

[0019] Referring to FIG. 1, a section of tape, 1, is shown with Y-shaped cuts. Each 'Y' has a stem and two branches. A stem is formed by making a generally transverse cut from the edge of the tape to a point relatively close to that edge. The alternating Y-shapes are inverted. The cuts for stems 2 and stems 3 are made from opposite edges of the tape. The two branches, A and B, of each 'Y' extend at some angle to each other from the end of the stem, *i.e.,* the junction, substantially toward the opposite edge of the tape, terminating~~teminating~~ near that opposite edge. Preferably, a straight line connecting the end points of the branches and the junctions of the adjacent Y-shaped cuts lie upon a single~~common~~ line parallel to the tape edges. These cuts define pennants 4 and connecting bands 5. For illustrative purposes, a series of light bulbs is printed in the pennant areas on one surface of the tape. Right-side-up light bulbs 6 are printed on the faces of every other pennant. Upside-down light bulbs 7 are printed on the faces of the~~their~~ alternate pennants. Each light bulb is printed with its base towards the point of its pennant.

[0026] FIG. 7 shows a section of tape cut with Y-shaped cuts to produce triangular pennants. In the figure, holes 23 are placed where the cuts terminate so as to relieve stress and to prevent inadvertent tearing of that portion of the tape forming the connecting bands. The stress relief holes, 23~~not numbered in the figure~~, are also shown in FIG. 3, and may be applied to any embodiment.

[0029] In addition, pennant shapes other than triangles or rectangles can be created using the same principles. Even shapes such as bells or shamrocks are feasible provided that some waste of tape or web material is tolerable or if one is not particular about the shape of the connecting bands. It is preferable to remove the waste material during the cutting process, particularly by cutting continuous lines completely through the material while leaving the useful parts of the pattern partly cut or discontinuous.